

Congress Passes 2008 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill

WASHINGTON, D.C. – As part of the \$105.6 billion Transportation – Housing and Urban Development Appropriations legislation, Congressman Charlie Wilson (D-OH) today announced a \$750,000 federal investment for the Chesapeake By-Pass. The bill passed the House by a vote of 270 to 147.

“Fostering economic development in the region is vitally important and completing the Chesapeake By-pass is key to making that happen.” Wilson said. “In addition, I’m pleased the total amount of the funding was boosted during the conference with the Senate,” Wilson added.

The version of the legislation originally passed by the House contained a \$500,000 investment for the By-pass. In conference with the Senate, that total was increased to \$750,000.

The funding will help pay for a portion of the property acquisition costs associated with the Phase 2 segment of the State Route 7 – Chesapeake By-Pass. This segment of highway once completed, in conjunction with other Ohio and West Virginia segments that are either planned, under construction, or recently constructed, will form the Northern Outerbelt around the Tri-State Metropolitan Area. Upon its completion the Outerbelt will ease local traffic congestion and provide an alternative route when I-64 is closed or backed up.

In addition to the funding for the Chesapeake By-pass, the Transportation and Housing conference report will invest \$40.2 billion in our nation’s highway infrastructure. An additional \$1 billion will be invested in our aging bridges. The spending bill also contains money to renew all current housing vouchers and provides 15,500 new vouchers for veterans, the disabled and low income families.

The \$105.6 billion conference report will now go to the Senate for consideration. If it passes the Senate, the bill would then head to the President’s desk.

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